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199-2106 (FGT 1357 PA)

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-14 are currently pending in the Office Action.

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furuya et al. (JP 06-111838). Claims 6, 8-10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuya et al. (JP 06-111838). Claims 4, 5, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuya et al. (JP 06-111838) in view of Cornelison et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,829,655). Applicants respectfully traverse each of the Examiner's rejections.

In an attempt to move this case towards allowance, Applicants have first herein cancelled claims 1-7 without prejudice.

Claim 8 of the present invention discloses a plate frame heat exchanger having a plurality of header sheets forming reformer and burner gas sections, and further requires "wherein said feed gas flow and an exhaust burner gas flow is substantially perpendicular with respect to one another between a pair of adjacent cells and wherein said feed gas flow and exhaust burner gas flow are substantially cross-flow with respect to one another in said reformer section and said burner section." Thus, claim 8 has two separate structural limitations -- one being wherein the feed gas flow and exhaust burner gas flow are perpendicular with respect to one another in adjacent cells, the other wherein the feed gas flow and exhaust burner gas flow are substantially cross-flow with respect to one another in the burner section and reformer section.

Claim 8 further requires two additional structural limitations. One structural limitation is the coupling of two adjacent reformer channels to form a coupled reformer channel, while the other structural limitation is the coupling together of two adjacent burner channels to form a coupled burner channel.

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None of the Figures disclosed in the Office Action (namely Figures 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 16 or 18), as disclosed in Fukura, could be joined together to form a plate frame heat exchanger having the four structural limitations of claim 8. In fact, the Office Action is silent as to the two additional structural limitations of claim 8, namely the formation of the coupled reformer channel and coupled burner gas channel.

Thus, because Furuya does not teach the structure of claim 8, and further because Furuya is silent as to whether the burner gas flow in adjacent channels flow in opposite directions (the Examiner acknowledges same), Applicants respectfully submit that Furuya does not teach the present invention as in claim 8, nor in dependent claims 9-10 and 13-14. Removal of the obviousness rejection of claims 8-10 and 13-14 is thus respectfully requested.

Further, as Cornelison has not been introduced to regarding the structure of the plate frame heat exchanger, the combination of Fukura and Cornelison does not teach the claimed invention of claim 11. Reconsideration of claim 11 is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 8-11 and 13-14 are all in proper form and patently distinguish from the prior art. Accordingly, allowance of the claim and passage of the application to issuance is respectfully requested.

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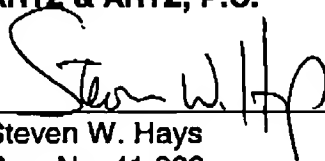
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The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any matters remain unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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